IN THE CLAIMS

The following claims are now pending in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling remote networking functionality by port proxying, the method comprising:

executing a process on a local client computer [[requiring]] employing a networking protocol over a port of the client computer assigned to support the network protocol;

determining whether the port of the client computer assigned to support the network protocol is blocked;

on [[a]] the local client computer, if the port of the client computer assigned to support the network protocol is blocked, intercepting communications in a first communication format from the process to [[a]] the blocked port ~~assigned to support the network protocol; and~~

encapsulating the intercepted communications in the first communication format in a second communication format; and

redirecting the encapsulated communications in the second communication format over an open port on the client computer compatible with said second communication format.

2. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the step of executing the process comprises executing an application program.

3. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the step of executing the process comprises executing an application program residing on a remote storage asset.

4. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the process utilizes SMB networking.

5. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the step of intercepting communications from the process comprises intercepting communications for port 139.

6. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the step of intercepting communications from the process comprises addressing the communications to an address assigned for local loop-back.

7. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the step of redirecting the communications over the open port comprises encapsulating the communications in an HTTP packet.

8. (Original) A method as described in Claim 7, wherein the communications are located in a post data portion of the HTTP packet.

9. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the open port is an HTTP port.

10. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein the open port is a FTP port.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for remote networking by port proxy, the system comprising:

an application program executing on a client computer ~~which is utilizing~~ employing the SMB protocol to access a remote storage asset; and

a port proxy program, running on the client computer, that determines whether a port assigned to support the SMB protocol is blocked, and if so, intercepts communications in a first communication format from the application program to [[a]] the port assigned to support the SMB protocol and encapsulates the communications in a second communication format and redirects the communications in the second communication format over an open port on the client computer compatible with said second communication format.

12. (Original) A system as described in Claim 11, wherein the open port is an HTTP port.

13. (Original) A system as described in Claim 11, wherein the open port is an FTP port.

14. (Original) A system as described in Claim 11, wherein the SMB port is port 139.

15. (Original) A system as described in Claim 11, wherein the communications are addressed for local loop-back.

16. (Original) A system as described in Claim 11, wherein port proxy program encapsulates the communications in an HTTP packet.

17. (Original) A system as described in Claim 16, wherein the communications are located in a post data portion of the HTTP packet.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising constructing an application descriptor file for coordinating actions between a client and a server.

19. (Previously Presented) A system as described in Claim 11, further comprising an application descriptor file on a server for coordinating actions between a client and the server.

20. (Canceled)